Pteris aquilina β Willd. Sp. Pl. 5: 402. 1810.

Pteris aquilina var. *pseudocaudata* Clute, Fern Bull. 8: 39. 1900.

This fern, species or variety, has troubled systematists for over ninety years, and we confess our inability to add anything to the information already published on the subject other than to call attention to its long synonymy. Mr. George Nicholson has recently expressed to the writer a belief that the so-called *Pteridium aquilinum* of the northeastern States is a different species from *P. aquilinum* of Europe. Surely the species is a variable one in both countries as already seen in such field study as we have been able to give it on the other side of the Atlantic. The present plant has a range from Maryland to Texas, extending up the coast line of New Jersey to Long Island. We have assigned it no place in Dr. Small's forthcoming flora because of present uncertainty regarding its specific or varietal limits.

Anchistea Virginica (L.) Presl, and Lorinseria areolata (L.) Presl

These plants are neither congeneric with *Woodwardia*, of which we must now regard *W. radicans* the type, nor with each other. The former is probably nearest *Blechnum* and the latter is phylogenetically very close to *Onoclea sensibilis*, in fact much closer than to either of the plants with which it has long been generically associated. The acute Presl separated them as above over a half a century ago, and we have followed his lead in Dr. Small's forthcoming Flora of the Southern States. Incidentally the Californian species is distinct from the Mediterranean one, and we shall have to follow Mr. Maxon in giving it Breckenridge's name.

Columbia University, 14 January, 1903.

TRICHOMANES PETERSII FOUND ANEW*

By A. B. Seymour

Trichomanes Petersii is one of three plants recorded in Mohr's Plant Life of Alabama as found only in that state, and I have found no further information except by my own observations.

* Read before the Botanical Club, A. A. A. S., at the Washington Meeting, January, 1903.

This fern was first discovered in 1853 in Winston County, Alabama, by Hon. T. M. Peters and named for him by Dr. Gray. One mat of the plant in the Gray Herbarium sent by Mr. Peters covers a large part of an herbarium sheet. More recently it has been found in two other counties in Alabama. Professor L. M. Underwood has visited the original locality and published an account of it in the *Botanical Gazette.*

In 1901 I spent several weeks, from July to September, collecting cryptogams in the vicinity of Tallulah Falls, Georgia. Several days after my arrival there, I found my way along the course of a small brook into a deep ravine. Toward the lower part of it, on a large boulder I noticed a coating of some moss-like or hepatic-like growth that in some way made me think of *Trichomanes Petersii.* I reached it as soon as I could and found that the green parts resembled the *Trichomanes* fronds. The mat was composed of minute rootstocks. In the approaching dusk I eagerly held up the little fronds against a patch of sky and with my lens made out the little sunken goblet denoting the "fruit" at the apex of the frond.

The boulder upon which the fern was growing was well removed from the brook and so situated that even floods running down the steep hillside after heavy rain apparently could hardly reach the plants. The boulder was so large and abrupt that the only specimens practically accessible to me were those on a side away from the direction of floods; so that apparently the only water available to the plants was that of the moist atmosphere and direct falling rain. A few hundred feet away, in the brook, a pretty cascade soaked me well with its spray while I gathered delicate and luxuriant Hepaticae, but in that spray was no trace of *Trichomanes.* Gathering a liberal proportion of the plants within reach, I hurried to escape darkness in the ravine and reached the inhabited level by an exhausting climb.

Some weeks later, I visited the spot again in company with Mr. W. L. Moss, of the University of Georgia. We first sought the boulder and then took time to explore the banks of the brook. We found an abundance of the fern, somewhat fresher, on rocks doubtless sometimes reached by the waters of the brook.

During ten weeks I examined a good portion of Tallulah territory on my hands and knees with a lens but nowhere else did I find a trace of this fern.

Other ferns of interest found are *Cheilanthes tomentosa*, *Asplenium resiliens* and *Asplenium montanum*.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

A UNIQUE CLIMBING PLANT

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

In a letter written to Dr. Small from the field a few months ago, part of which was published in TORREYA last October, I mentioned finding *Andromeda phillyreaefolia* [*Pieris phillyreaefolia* (Hook.) DC.], an Ericaceous shrub, climbing the cypress trees (*Taxodium imbricarium*) in Okefinokee Swamp. As this case seems to be without a parallel, at least in the North American flora, some further description of it may be of interest.

I first collected *Pieris phillyreaefolia* on the morning of August 7 (no. 1475), in a sphagnous bog not far from our first camp in the swamp. There it was a shrub two to four feet tall, as usually described, and there was nothing remarkable about its appearance or habitat. A little later in the day our guide pointed out to us a "vine" which he said climbed the cypresses by creeping under their bark. I lost no time in examining a specimen of this peculiar "vine" (no. 1479), and found it to be the same *Pieris* which I had just collected. Its flowering branches projecting from the tree at various distances from the ground gave it the appearance of a parasite, but by pulling some of it away from the tree I discovered its flattened stems concealed between the inner and outer layers of the fibrous bark of the cypress. No connection between the shrub and the living portion of the tree by rootlets or otherwise was observed, and it is not likely that the *Pieris* derives any advantage except mechanical support from this arrangement. I did not take time to trace the creeping stem down to the ground, nor did I observe where it first penetrated the bark of the tree. The concealed part of the stem